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SEISDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

SANITARY INSPECTOR

=====



YEAR

1942

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H. R. SPACKMAN, F.R.I.P.H.,

G. V. R. LEE, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

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Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Wombourn,  
Nr. Wolverhampton.  
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June, 1943  
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SEISDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

INTERIM REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR

1 9 4 2

37, Goldthorn Crescent,  
Penn,  
Wolverhampton.  
June, 1943

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Interim (43rd. Annual) Report on the Public Health Conditions obtaining in the Rural District of Seisdon, during the year 1942.

GENERAL STATISTICS  
=====

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	41,996
Rateable Value (31st. March, 1943)					...	...	£106,957
Sum produced by a penny rate				...	...	...	£412
Number of Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	303

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS  
=====

BIRTHS

			M.	F.	Total
Live Births (legitimate)	...		191	177	368
Live Births (illegitimate)	...		8	11	19
Total			199	188	387
Birth Rate	...	19.6	England and Wales		15.8
	(1941)	16.3			(1941) 14.2
Total stillbirths	...	...	...	...	13

DEATHS

			M.	F.	Total
			89	109	198
Death Rate	...	10.0	England and Wales		11.6
	(1941)	10.64			(1941) 12.9

Number of women dying in or in consequence of childbirth :

1. From sepsis	...	...	1
2. From other causes	...	...	2
Total			3
			=====
1941 - Nil			



Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

		M.	F.	total
Legitimate	...	11	7	18
Illegitimate	...	-	1	1
<hr/>				
Total		11	8	19
(1941)		13	7	20

Infantile Mortality Rate

Legitimate	...	48.9		
Illegitimate	...	52.6		
Total	...	49.1	England and Wales	49
(1941)	...	61.0	(1941)	59

Deaths from Tuberculosis

There were 7 male deaths ( 6 Pulmonary, 1 Non-Pulmonary) and 2 female deaths (1 Pulmonary, 1 Non-Pulmonary) during the year.

		Male		Female		Total
		Pul.	Non-Pul.	Pul.	Non-Pul	
1942	...	6	1	1	1	9
1941	...	6	2	1	2	11

Cancer Deaths

			Males	Females	Total
1942	...	...	12	18	30
1941	...	...	12	10	22

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following cases were notified during the year :

Diseases	Total cases notified		Total deaths	
	1942	1941	1942	1941
Enteric Fever	1	1	-	-
Typhoid	-	2	-	-
Scarlet Fever	53	34	-	-
Whooping Cough	36	128	1	-
Diphtheria	23	48	-	-
Small pox	-	-	-	-
Measles	39	196	-	-
Pneumonia	12	20	5	12
Puerperal pyrexia	3	2	1	-





Cases of Tuberculosis Notified during the year : (for the first time)

Male	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Female		Male	Female	
6	5		1	4	16

Total cases remaining on Register at December 31st. 1942

21	14		6	12	53
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DIPHThERIA IMMUNISATION

It will be noted that the number of cases of diphtheria has fallen by over 50% from 48 to 23, and that there were no deaths from this disease.

The figures for Diphtheria Immunisation compiled at December 31st. 1942 and at December 31st. 1941 are given below :

	1942			1941
	Number of children	Number immunised	% immunised	% immunised
Under 5	1811	707	39	35
age 5 and over but under 15	1964	1578	80	61.8

It will be seen that the position in relation to the 5 - 15 age group has improved considerably and may be regarded as reasonably satisfactory.

There has not been a marked improvement in the under 5 group. I am, however, informed that there have been, since December 31st. 1942, quite a large number of acceptances and that the figures which will be compiled at 30th. June, 1943 should show a distinct improvement.

I remain,

Yours obediently,

H. R. SPACKMAN,  
F.R.I.P.H.,  
Medical Officer of Health.





SEISDON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
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ANNUAL REPORT  
-----  
of the  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
-----

YEAR 1942  
=====

To the Chairman and Members, Seisdon Rural District Council,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Second Annual Report, that for the year 1942, upon the work performed by my department.

I should like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council for their help and consideration in the carrying out of my duties; to the Medical Officer of Health and other Officials of your Council for their help, and to Miss Turner and Miss Wood for their unfailing and willing assistance at all times.

I

SUMMARY OF GENERAL SANITARY ADMINISTRATION  
=====

Total Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	2818
Number of Complaints Received	...	...	...	...	...	200
Preliminary Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	138
Statutory Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	12
Preliminary Notices Complied	...	...	...	...	...	109
Statutory Notices Complied	...	...	...	...	...	10
Number of letters received	...	...	...	...	...	1163
Number of letters despatched	...	...	...	...	...	632

II

ROUTINE INSPECTIONS MADE  
=====

HOUSING  
-----

Houses Inspected - Primary	...	...	...	154
- Re-Inspections		...	...	197
Overcrowding	...	...	...	7

FACTORIES  
-----

Factories - Mechanical Power	...	...	...	32
- No Mechanical Power	...	...	...	15
Bakehouses	...	...	...	11

MEAT and FOOD INSPECTIONS  
-----

Meat and Food Inspections - Day	...	...	...	363
- Evening and Week-end	...	...	...	223
Total	...	...	...	586



MEAT and FOOD INSPECTION (Continued)

Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Shops : - Meat	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
Fish	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
General	...	...	...	...	...	...	50
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	17
Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	117
Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	151
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Sampling - Water	...	...	...	...	...	...	7

OTHER ROUTINE VISITS of INSPECTION  
-----

Accumulations	...	...	...	...	...	...	177
Animals Kept	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Civil Defence	...	...	...	...	...	...	88
Dirty Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	...	339
Evacuation	...	...	...	...	...	...	215
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	...	209
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	...	61
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	...	...	27
Poultry Farm	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Refuse Receptacles	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Smoke	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tents, Vans, Sheds	...	...	...	...	...	...	40
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	...	131
Water Supply to Water closets	...	...	...	...	...	...	11
Verminous Premises	...	...	...	...	...	...	46

III

COMPLAINTS  
=====

Two hundred complaints were received during the year under review. They concerned the following defects :

Choked Drain	..	..	..	..	20	Drainage defects	..	..	..	58
Non-removal of refuse	..	..	..	..	5	Refuse Receptacles	..	..	..	8
Pails requiring emptying	..	..	..	..	3	Rats and Mice	..	..	..	1
Snow under roof	..	..	..	..	1	Meat and Food	..	..	..	10
Housing defects	..	..	..	..	42	Animals Kept	..	..	..	5
Accumulations	..	..	..	..	4	Verminous Premises	..	..	..	1
Dirty Premises	..	..	..	..	4	Smoke	..	..	..	1
Water supply	..	..	..	..	5	Miscellaneous	..	..	..	1
Overflowing cesspools	..	..	..	..	32					
Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	4	Referred to Surveyor	..	..	..	21

IV

INFECTIOUS DISEASES  
=====

Routine disinfection of rooms, etc., occupied by cases of scarlet fever, diphtheria, enteric fever, was carried out; disinfection after cases of tuberculosis, cancer, etc., was carried out at the request of relatives. Disinfection is carried out by the use of formaldehyde, either as stoving or in spray form.

Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	...	66
Schools disinfected	...	...	...	...	1





# VERMINOUS PREMISES and PERSONS

Forty six visits were made during the year to premises stated to be verminous. The following actual disinfestations took place :

Rooms infested with bugs	...	...	...	1
Rooms infested with fleas	...	...	...	16
Premises infested with ants	...	...	...	2

Stoving by sulphur, or spraying with Zaldeide, were the means of treatment adopted, the treatment being successful in every case.

It was found necessary, on the certificates of your Medical Officer of Health and myself, to take action in connection with an old lady at Pattingham, under Sections 83, 84, and 85, Public Health Act, 1936. A Court Order was obtained for her removal to an Institution for cleansing and for her retention there whilst her cottage was disinfested and minor repairs carried out.

## VI

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are eight private slaughterhouses in your Area; these have not been in use since the operation of the Government Meat & Livestock Scheme, January, 1940.

15 visits were made to these premises during the year.

## VII

### MEAT and FOOD INSPECTION

A total of 586 visits were made in connection with the inspection of meat and other foods; 363 were made during the day-time, and 223 were evening or week-end visits.

I have again to thank the Food Executive Officer, Mr. A.M.Baker, for his co-operation in the matter of inspection of home-killed pigs. Mr. Baker supplies each applicant for a licence with a form, to be returned to me, showing time, place and date of proposed slaughter.

As a result of this procedure 492 pigs were examined; only a very small percentage were found to be diseased:

Tuberculosis				Approximate weight in lbs.		
One whole carcass				210		
Heads	..	..	15	}		
Livers	..	..	3			
Lungs	..	..	7			
Shoulders	..	..	1			
Hams	..	..	1			
				360		
				570		
Pyelonephrosis						
Kidney			1	}		
Pneumonia						
Lungs			1	}	8	
				578		
=====						





The following items were also inspected :

Found to be unsound, unwholesome, or unfit for human consumption -

Luncheon Meat	.. .. .	20	x	6 lb. tins
		1	x	4 lb. tin
		34	x	12oz. tins
Milk (14½ oz. tins)	.. .. .	385		
Meat and Vegetable Dinner	.. .. .	1	x	11b. tin
Beans in Gravy	.. .. .	1	x	11b. tin
Grapefruit marmalade	.. .. .	13	x	2lb. tins
Prunes	.. .. .	11	x	6¼lb. tins
Sprats	.. .. .	1	cwt.	
Shoulder of ham	.. .. .	25	lb.	
Beans and Peas (mixed)	.. .. .	2	cwt.	

Released as fit for immediate Trade use or Animal Feeding Stuffs -

Luncheon Meat	.. .. .	2	x	6 lb. tins
		24	x	12oz. tins
Grapefruit Marmalade	.. .. .	61	x	2 lb. tins
Milk (14½ oz. tins)	.. .. .	234		
Peas	.. .. .	4	cwt.	
Cut groats	.. .. .	9	cwt.	
Whole groats	.. .. .	13	cwt.	

## VIII

### COWSHEDS, DAIRIES, etc.

=====

151 visits were made to cowsheds, and 117 to dairies. As reported to the Council recently a special effort is now being made to increase the inspection and control of this very important aspect of Meat and other Foods Inspection; at the same time opportunity is being provided for bringing the appropriate Registers up-to-date. Difficulties were experienced during the year under review, particularly in relation to petrol supply; these difficulties have, at the time of reporting, been to a large extent removed.

Milk sampling is undertaken by the County Health Staff and I am informed that, whilst figures are not available for this particular Report, the results of Bacteriological and Biological examination of samples of milk produced in this Area are extremely satisfactory.

## IX

### WATER SAMPLING

=====

During the year samples of water were taken from 7 premises; of these four were satisfactory for drinking purposes, and three showed some slight sewage pollution. These samples were taken in connection with emergency water supplies.

Only one sample was taken during the year for chemical analysis. This proved to be satisfactory.



## HOUSING and SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED

=====

INTERNAL

-----

WALLS

Plaster repaired .. .. 14  
 Internal walls repointed .. .. 8  
 Cleansed and redecorated .. .. 12

CEILINGS

Plaster repaired .. .. 16  
 Cleansed and redecorated .. .. 8

WINDOWS

Frames, sashes repaired .. .. 4  
 Sash cords provided .. .. 3  
 Window area increased .. .. 1  
 Fastenings provided or repaired 1  
 Glass repaired .. .. 3

DOORS

Woodwork repaired .. .. 3  
 Door cills provided or repaired 3

FLOORS

Wood floors provided .. .. 1  
 Quarry, etc., floors repaired .. 3

STAIRS

Treads or risers repaired .. .. 2

FIREPLACES

Firegrates repaired .. .. 1  
 Defective ovens, etc., repaired 1  
 Hearths repaired, mantels and  
 pointing .. .. 1

SINKS

Waste-pipes provided or repaired 10  
 Gully surrounds repaired or  
 provided .. .. 1

WATER SUPPLY

Provided .. .. 2  
 Waste of water remedied .. .. 4

WASHING ACCOMMODATION

Washcoppers repaired .. .. 7  
 Washhouses repaired .. .. 7  
 Pans, brickwork, rendering,  
 repaired .. .. 7  
 Hot water system repaired .. .. 4

FOODSTORES

Provided .. .. 2

MISCELLANEOUS

.. .. 1

EXTERNAL

-----

ROOFS

Timbers & coverings repaired .. 3  
 Slates & tiles repaired or  
 provided .. .. 3  
 Ridge tiles repaired .. .. 3  
 Verges repaired .. .. 3

CHIMNEY STACKS

Repaired .. .. 2  
 Brickwork repointed .. .. 2

GUTTERS

Provided .. .. 1  
 Repaired .. .. 2  
 Cleansed .. .. 2

WALLS

Brickwork repaired .. .. 5  
 Pointing repaired .. .. 5  
 Rendering .. .. 1

DAMP-PROOF COURSES

Earth removed .. .. 1

YARD PAVING

Repaired .. .. 4

WATER CLOSETS

Compartments repaired .. .. 1  
 Pans provided or repaired .. .. 2  
 Woodwork repaired .. .. 5  
 Cisterns etc., repaired .. .. 6

PAIL-CLOSETS

Compartments repaired .. .. 3  
 Pails provided .. .. 4

DRAINAGE

Provided or repaired .. .. 9  
 Access provided or repaired .. 2  
 Gullies provided .. .. 2  
 Soil/Vent pipes repaired .. .. 2  
 Cleansed .. .. 14

CESSPOOLS

Emptied .. .. 38

ACCUMULATIONS - Removed .. .. 4

MISCELLANEOUS .. .. 1

As noted on page one of my Report 119 notices were complied with during the year; 103 of these concerned the Housing repairs noted above. The premises concerned were sited as follows :

Codsall .. .. 3	Enville .. .. 1	Kinver .. .. 24
Lower Penn .. .. 5	Pattingham .. .. 5	Seisdon .. .. 5
Wombourn .. .. 33	Wrottesley .. .. 27	





Work of repair has continued during the year under review, and, despite the many restrictions now operative, 119 Notices were complied with - 109 as a result of informal action and 10 as a result of Statutory Notices; in no case was it necessary for the Council to undertake the work required in default.

An analysis of the actual items of repair, as compared with the figures for 1941, reveal that whilst the external items are down by about 10% the figures for internal items are up by a like figure.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for owners to have work carried out promptly and sympathetic consideration has to be given in all cases where there are not urgent or exceptional circumstances.

Owners, in general, do not appear over-ready to take advantage of the current labour and supply difficulties as an excuse for not carrying out work, a fact amply illustrated by the statement above that no work was carried out in default.

In these times it is difficult to give an accurate estimate of overcrowding. Only four complaints were received during the year and in each case there was either no overcrowding or at worst the circumstances rendered it a borderline case.

There have been no instances of overcrowding as a result of billeting of evacuees. There is no substantial change in the number of evacuees amongst us.

## XI

### CIVIL DEFENCE - FOOD TREATMENT

=====

The training of the Food Treatment Squad has gone on throughout the year. Monthly meetings are arranged and, in addition, the Squad has taken part in various exercises involving gas-contaminated foodstuffs.

For the purpose of exercises suitable foodstuffs which have been condemned as unfit for human or animal consumption are used by the Food Treatment Squad; certain items, such as tinned goods, tea, chocolate, etc., are held in reserve by myself. In addition, I have to acknowledge gratefully the help received from agents of the Ministry of Food (in respect of a quantity of unsound lard) and Mr. A. Dickin, Meat Inspector, Wolverhampton Abattoir (in respect of a carcass of beef), both items which were appreciated by the squad, as these are items which are difficult for me to obtain under ordinary circumstances and yet are items which might easily face the squad as a result of foodstuffs becoming contaminated by gas.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. V. R. Lee,  
A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,  
Sanitary Inspector.

Public Health Department,  
Council Offices,  
Wombourn.  
June, 1943

